

## Glacier Creek Hand Tram Safety Evaluation & Repairs

The Glacier Creek Hand Tram is located on the Winner Creek Trail, a National Forest System Trail and a popular section of the Iditarod National Historic Trail (INHT). The Tram itself is a Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) facility, installed prior to the trail being recognized as part of the INHT. The Tram is operated and maintained by the Girdwood Trails Committee, a group of volunteers that reports to the MOA's Parks & Recreation Department. The Tram provides a unique and exciting way to cross Glacier Creek, a fast-moving stream that is impossible to safely cross without some kind of structure. The Tram is an extremely popular facility; the high-use has resulted in some operational issues that the trails committee sought to resolve by this project.

The project called for an aerial tramway engineer to evaluate the situation, prioritize repairs, and to implement as many as funding allowed, following engineer's advice. To date the engineer has done the evaluation and the trails committee hired a project coordinator to implement the engineer's recommendations. Railings around the loading terminals, guards around the sheaves and frames to hold safety nets have been installed. These improvements were required by the MOA prior to re-opening the tram for public use. The MOA is poised to inspect this work as soon as the nets are in place so the Tram can be re-opened to public use. A new, lighter cart has been ordered and is being manufactured, and signs to explain how to use the tram will be installed later this year. The agreement is in place through August 2016 to allow volunteers time to fully implement this project.



Volunteers work to install railings around Hand Tram terminal.



Unique Machine employee attaches safety net frame to Tram terminal.